

Animal Coverings Teacher Guide

Field Trip Description

This interactive program set in the Naturalist Center Lab encourages students to examine hands-on specimens while comparing how animals use teeth, wings, claws, shells, fur, and other body structures to survive. Students will learn how scientists classify animals by describing their physical characteristics. **SC State Standards:** 1-LS1-1, 1-LS1-2, 2LS4-1

Objectives

- Students will be able to discuss how animals use their body structures to meet their needs.
- Students will be able to compare how animals differ based on their needs and habitat.
- Students will be able to list some of the many different kinds of animals that live in a particular habitat.
- Second graders will be able to explain how scientists group animals by their like characteristics. (Mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and fish.)

Vocabulary

Habitat: the natural environment of an animal or plant.

Camouflage: a way of hiding something by covering or coloring it so that it looks like its surroundings.

Trait: a characteristic or quality that makes a person or animal different from others.

Mammal: a warm-blooded animal with fur or hair on its skin and a skeleton inside its body.

Reptile: a cold-blooded animal with a skeleton inside its body and dry scales or hard plates on its skin.

Amphibian: a small animal that spends part of its life cycle in water and part of its life cycle on land.

Bird: an animal with two wings, two feet, and a body covered with feathers.

Fish: an animal that lives in water and has fins for swimming and gills for breathing.

Pre-Visit

(suggestions to prepare students for the field trip)

- Have students think about and name animals that live in a pond, forest, river, meadow, etc.
- Review the vocabulary list with the students. These are words they will be hearing during their visit.
- Watch "[Welcome to the Museum!](#)"

Post-Visit

(suggestions to reinforce concepts learned on the field trip)

- Quiz students on the vocabulary learned at the Museum.
- Assign students an animal. Have them discuss which habitat their animal lives in and how their animal's traits help them to survive there.
- See how many animals they can now name that live in ponds, forests, rivers, meadows, etc.